Maria Zeppenfeldt

Period 5

10/9/13

1. Confessing to a crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment is wise.

In my opinion, the answer to this question is a definite no; confessing to a crime you didn’t commit in order to avoid punishment is not wise. I think that this is not a very smart idea because if someone lies about committing a crime, the truth will eventually end up coming to light, so they would be punished either way. So why would someone not say the truth from the start if they are going to be punished in the end, more severely even, for lying about the situation? It is never okay to lie people have to realize that a lie is a lie and that will get them in trouble. Today, it is very difficult to get away with lying about such things especially with all the advanced technology we have. It would all just be easier to say it as it is from the start and that would prevent the person from harsher punishment. For example, if a student were to cheat on a test and get caught by their teacher they are better off being honest because after all, it is their word against the teachers’. If the teacher sees that the student took full responsibility for their actions then they may reduce the punishment and consequences. Another thing is, wouldn’t confessing to a crime that one did not commit ruin one’s reputation? It would just make one look bad and cause more problems. It just doesn’t make sense, the person is not avoiding punishment by confessing to something that they did not do, if anything they are actually attracting it. Plus, it is not really considered confessing if the person is lying. Confessing means telling the truth but the truth is not being told here, it is all just a bunch of lies. It just defeats the whole point of confessing. One should never feel the pressure to confess for a crime that they did not do to avoid punishment because there should be all the evidence in the world that they are indeed innocent. In another perspective though, I see why sometimes one may find it necessary to blame themselves for doing something they didn’t do. Although I don’t think it is a wise choice I am aware that this is something that happens sometimes and I can understand it. For example, let’s say that a group of students are being questioned to try and find out who is to blame for stealing the wallet from the teacher’s desk. Someone then decides that they will take the blame for the crime to prevent the rest of the class from undergoing punishment. This may not be a smart move but it does happen sometimes. The person is only preventing punishment from reaching the whole class because they are the ones that will end up getting in trouble for supposedly committing this crime. When the truth is found they will receive consequences for lying as well so they are basically getting double the trouble. As seen in both perspectives, saying that you did something that you really didn’t do is not the best choice. If the person is innocent, they should stay that way because at the end of the day things go better if the truth is told from the very start.

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1. The difference between right and wrong is clear.

I believe that the difference between right and wrong is clear at times but not all the time. Sometimes it is very clear whether something is right or wrong but other times one realizes that there is a thin line between what is correct and what is not. Everybody is different and everybody holds different opinions therefore not everybody will have the same reactions towards situations. If a group of people were given a scenario about what they were to do if they had the chance to steal any item from a store without getting caught, I am sure there would be varying responses. Some people would not think twice about it and say they would definitely do it. Others would have their morals gain control of the situation and say that they would not do it because it is simply not right. Just because some people say that they would steal the item does not mean that they think is right, they just think that if there is an opportunity to do it without getting caught then it is okay. Now taking a different example, let’s say that you have a friend that needs consolidation and advice but being honest would just hurt their feelings even more, so should you just tell them what they want to hear? This is where it becomes difficult. The correct choice here is not clear because you don’t want to lie to your friend but at the same time you don’t want to hurt their feelings. Situations like these are what make you realize that right and wrong are not as easy to distinguish in all scenarios. Deciding whether something is classified as right or wrong just depends on the situation. Murder for example, is it an act that should be justifiable at all? That is actually a very controversial question because while some people believe that killing someone should not be acceptable by any means, others say that it could be justified with the reasoning. For instance, if a robber breaks into your house and tries to kidnap you but you end up killing him, is that considered wrong? I don’t think so because the robber was going to end up killing you either way along with many other people. It is self-defense and if anything you are doing the world a favor by eliminating a murderer from the streets. To sum it up, I just believe that what people think is right or wrong is influenced by what they are taught and what society makes them believe. From a small age we are taught the basics about distinguishing right from wrong. Then as we grow older we retain that knowledge and become influenced by what we see from society.

1. It is better to die for what you believe in rather than to lie to save your life.

Although it is well know that many different historical figures have died for what they believe in, I personally wouldn’t do it myself. I have so much respect for those who have and I believe that their legacy will go on forever. When you believe in something very strongly and others are opposing you I do think that you should stand up for what you believe in but I think that dying is too extreme. Think about it, maybe instead of dying you can keep fighting for your cause and make a change because dying may not really resolve anything. Of course when you put religion into perspective, things change a little and that is because certain religions require you to die to prove your point. They believe in getting their point across and fighting for what they believe in even if it means death. In that case, I think that their choice of death is understandable because it was for a cause that meant so much to them. For me though, I don’t really have anything that I believe in that is worth dying for, I mean that doesn’t mean that I wouldn’t fight for it, it just means that I wouldn’t give my life up for it. I would much rather lie to save my life because we all lie either way. I am not brave enough to choose to die over simply lying and being able to live. Just because I wouldn’t do it doesn’t mean I don’t agree with others wanting to do it. I think that it is actually something very brave and heroic to do and something that will hopefully impact everyone enough to make them see things differently. As I said before, I believe that if the person chooses to live then they would have a better chance of changing the world but if it really means that much to them that they would rather die, then they should not be stopped. The thing is that death does not really resolve much, it might help bring and put more emphasis on the situation but it doesn’t guarantee that any changes will occur. Martin Luther King, for example, lived and died for a cause that was of great significance for him and that was equality. Throughout his life he did everything he possibly could to make the world aware of the importance of establishing the justice and equality that he envisioned. Unfortunately his life was ended too quickly but he was still able to change other people’s outlook and view of the world. Stories like these are very inspiring and I think that the decisions these people take are very heroic and courageous. Then again, I would not do anything like that myself, I would fight for my beliefs but never choose to die for them.

1. There is only one correct way to interpret the Bible.

I do not believe that there is only one correct way to interpret the Bible. I am sure that not everybody interprets it the same exact way. Different religions find different meanings within the passages of the Bible. If everyone interpreted the Bible in the same way and had the same views on it then we would all hold the same beliefs and that is not the case. People of different religions are united by the Bible but everyone relates to it in their own form. There will always be different takes on the Bible and different messages that are pulled out from it. That is because everybody tries to make it fit to their own religion. The Bible actually causes much controversy; there are some people that keep their beliefs to themselves but there are others that will try and get you to see the Bible through their eyes. Those people want to make others believe that there is only one meaning and message behind the Bible. The original intention of the Bible may be one but everyone has just molded it to fit their religious beliefs and that is understandable. Everyone is entitled to freedom of religion therefore everyone will practice their beliefs in accordance to how they view the bible. Nobody can and should be forced to view something and share the same thoughts and interpretations as others; it is just not how life works. The reason there are so many different religions is because from the start, everyone picked up a different interpretation from the Bible and decided to branch out to be able to practice what they believe to be correct. Even though the Bible may hold one truth, people will not think the same of it as everybody is different in the way they think. Everyone is raised with different cultural backgrounds therefore it cannot be expected that they will all have the same interpretations. This situation is seen in other scenarios as well, for example, after watching a movie people will find that it transmitted a message but most people will have a different message in mind. Although the messages perceived are different there will be some people that find among each other that they received the same message. This is very much like the Bible, although there may be different interpretations made from it, there will be some people that share the same thoughts and then group together to form a religion based on it. Another point is that nobody really knows what the original intentions of the Bible were meant to be. The meaning that we may get from a passage from the Bible can be completely different than what the intention originally even was. Nobody can ever be completely sure of what the intended message was supposed to be, this is why I believe that there is not only one correct way to interpret the Bible.

1. That which doesn’t destroy us only makes us stronger.

I agree with this statement very much; I do believe that what doesn’t destroy us makes us stronger. In life we are put through many different tests and obstacles and the only reason why we are able to make it through it all is because we stand tall and we become stronger. After everything one experiences they can only learn from what they did wrong or right and use that to make them stronger. Experience really builds our strength because as we move on to other difficult moments in life we will already have knowledge from past mistakes and that prevents us from making them again. One thing if for you to have given up on something because it has completely destroyed you and ruined your life. Another thing is for you to overcome something that has been very challenging for you and which in turn also builds your strength. Situations will either destroy you or make you stronger there is no in between. Nothing in life comes easy and there are times in which people just want to give up but some don’t, and they keep it together and stand with their head held high. I find that very inspirational and I think that those are the people to look up to. In life you have to go through so many hardships and tough times but at the end of the day those are the things that make you stronger and prepare you for whatever is next. Determination and perseverance are key and they are what help build us stronger. There are people that are in situations much more difficult than what we will ever have to experience. For example, homeless people on the street do not let their situation get the best of them. They strive for life even though the odds are not in their favor. Every day that they live only makes them stronger especially since it teaches them to value life in a whole other level than we do. Life will always throw many different obstacles at us but it is up to us whether we will fight through it all and carry on or just call it quits and remain defeated. I believe that we are all living proof of this quote, we all have to fight for the things we want in life. In the process of doing so we learn so many new things that help us with other situations. If you make it through a really bad situation then what you pull out from it can only be good because you made it through and have more knowledge and strength than you had before. I think that if something does not cause you to snap, it will definitely serve as a positive thing for future occurrences, therefore whatever doesn’t destroy you can only make you stronger.

1. It’s more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt doesn’t forgive you.

I do believe that it is more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt does not forgive you. The reason I think so is because if the person that you hurt does not forgive you, then you will live will that guilt. I wouldn’t be able to live with myself if I ever did something that hurt someone else’s feelings so much that they weren’t able to forgive me. Also it should be kept in mind that people can forgive but that does not mean that they will forget. I guess it depends a lot on the kind of person you are, whether you care about others’ feelings or not but I myself am someone that would hold a guilty conscious forever if I hurt someone so deeply. The fact that you have upset someone and cannot do anything to change it is very frustrating and it is not a good position to be in. How can you live with yourself knowing that you have upset someone so much to not deserve their forgiveness? Also, if you are in a situation like this that most likely means that you have altered the way in which the person looks at you forever. People say that after you let some time pass that things will get better but that is not always true. Sometimes there is just nothing you can do to make things better between you and the other person. If the person decides to not forgive you then that is like an extra weight you will carry on your shoulders for a very long time, especially if you really cared about the person. This is why people should be really careful with the words they speak and the actions they carry out because one mistake can cause friendships to break. Apologies don’t always do the job either way because a simple “sorry” will not change what has already been done. I would never be able to deal with myself if I have caused someone to hurt so much therefore I believe that it is more difficult to forgive yourself if the person you have hurt doesn’t forgive you.